Claims

1. A method of converting a modality of multimedia contents to support Quality of Service (QoS) of the multimedia contents according to media resources, comprising the steps of:

receiving a modality conversion descriptor in which characteristics of modality conversion of the multimedia contents are described;

receiving the multimedia contents; and

converting the modality of the multimedia contents into a modality that is determined according to a media resource and the modality conversion descriptor.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the media resource is a network or terminal to which the multimedia contents are provided.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the modality conversion descriptor describes content value curves and scale factors for modalities of the multimedia contents.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the modality conversion step comprises the steps of:

obtaining conversion boundaries using the content

value curves and scale factors for the modalities;

determining an optimal modality for the media resource using the conversion boundaries; and

converting the multimedia contents into the determined optimal modality.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the conversion boundaries are values of the media resource corresponding to intersection points where the content value curves intersect with each other when the content value curves for the modalities overlap with each other according to the scale factors.

6. The method according to claim 3, wherein each of the content value curves is obtained by combining content value curves that are measured according to two or more different qualities.

7. An apparatus for converting a modality of multimedia contents to support QoS of the multimedia contents according to media resources, comprising:

means for receiving a modality conversion descriptor in which characteristics of modality conversion of the multimedia contents are described; and

means for converting the modality of the multimedia contents into a modality that is determined according to a

media resource and the modality conversion descriptor.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the modality conversion descriptor describes content value curves and scale factors for modalities of the multimedia contents.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the modality conversion means comprises:

means for obtaining conversion boundaries using the content value curves and scale factors for the modalities; and

means for converting the modality of the multimedia contents into the determined optimal modality.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the conversion boundaries are values of the media resource corresponding to intersection points where the content value curves intersect with each other when the content value curves of the modalities overlap with each other according to the scale factors.

11. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein each of the content value curves is obtained by combining content value curves that are measured according to two or more different qualities.